

Editorial

# LabMed: A New Open Access Journal to Share Advances in Laboratory Medicine

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*LabMed* is a new open access electronic journal supported by one of the world's leading electronic publishers MDPI, the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, and by an international editorial board with diverse expertise in laboratory medicine. Resources for English language editing assist submissions to *LabMed* from authors whose native language is not English. The electronic publishing format provides greater flexibility regarding the length of articles, number of tables, and illustrations that often have strict limitations in printed journals. Articles will be subjected to peer review to maintain high standards, and expectations are for rapid review and constructive recommendations for revision as needed.

The scope of this new journal, the field of laboratory medicine, is a burgeoning field based on major advances in molecular diagnostics and other technologies that are leading to personalized medicine and better-informed treatment of patients [1–3]. Laboratory testing has always played an important role in medical decision-making. However, over my 40-year career in this field, I have seen the importance of laboratory testing continue to grow. Medical care has progressed over time, from diagnosis only after presentation of advanced symptomatic disease to detection of early-stage disease, and to modification of risk factors for disease and, thus, disease prevention. Laboratory testing provides a key role in identifying risk factors and pre-symptomatic disease. Applications of new genetic information, laboratory tests, and testing technologies are likely to provide new opportunities for better personalized care and disease prevention. Artificial intelligence also likely will find many new applications in clinical laboratories and for addressing the growing challenge of analyzing large volumes of data [4–6]. These new applications will require extensive evaluation and sharing of information about the best approaches for implementation.

Information about advances in laboratory medicine has a growing audience, not only among healthcare professionals but also among many other individuals who have a personal interest in laboratory testing. An open access publishing format provides the broadest worldwide access to new information, not limited by institutional resources for libraries or expensive journal subscriptions.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The author is a stockholder in Quest Diagnostics and within the past 2 years served as Medical Director for a regional laboratory for Quest Diagnostics.



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## Short Biography of Author

The author, **Glen L. Hortin** M.D., Ph.D. currently is a Senior Member in the Department of Pathology at Moffitt Cancer and Research Institute and a Professor of Oncological Science at the Morsani School of Medicine, University of South Florida. He began training in Laboratory Medicine in 1983 at Washington University in St. Louis. He has been a faculty member at Washington University School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and University of Florida as well as Chief of Clinical Chemistry at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and Medical Director for regional laboratories for Quest Diagnostics. From the time of residency training, he has overseen daily testing in clinical laboratories in hospital laboratories, at the point-of-care, and in large commercial laboratories. Early in career, his research primarily focused on the basic science of post-translation modification of proteins, but more recently has examined practical issues in the clinical laboratory. He has been an active investigator in the field of Laboratory Medicine and has published widely and has participated in multiple editorial boards before recently joining the editorial board of LabMed as Associate Editor.

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